

A⁴
[0091] Using so called phage display methodologies, phage particles such as the bacteriophage M13 may be prepared with antigens, antibodies, antibody light or heavy chains, or combination of them attached to coat proteins. See U.S. Patents 5,498,530 or 5,580,717. These particles may be used in the present invention as capture agents immobilized on the capture strips described, or, in sandwich assays, as bearers of fluorescent, radioactive, or light absorbing molecules to provide particle detection. Not only whole phage particles, but also suspensions of coat proteins with the insert product attached may be used.

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 and 7 as follows.

sub B₁
Q₁
1. (Amended) A method for detecting particles in a sample comprising;
placing a fluid sample into a sedimentation container containing a first slanted solid phase at a location above the first slanted solid phase,
sedimenting particles in a sample across the first slanted solid phase to concentrate the particles;
sedimenting the particles across a second solid phase where the second solid phase contains at least one immobilized binding agent capable of binding to at least one particle in the sample, and
detecting particles bound to the immobilized binding agent on the second solid phase,
wherein the slanted solid phase is slanted with respect to a sedimentation path.

Q₂
7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the particles include at least one type of microorganism.

Cancel non-elected claims 11 through 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.